

## **CHAPTER 6 - ANNEX D - RESPIRATORY PROTECTION**

### **6.D.1 - PURPOSE -**

1. Provides requirements to implement an effective Respiratory Protection Program.
2. Prescribes policies for selecting, using, controlling and maintaining
3. respiratory protective equipment (RPE) in a manner that will ensure adequate and proper protection for employees working in environments containing harmful concentrations of dust, fumes, mists, gases, smoke, or vapors.
4. Delineates responsibilities for a Facility Respiratory Protection Program.
5. Applies to all personnel using or having need for RPE or who are involved in the operation of the Respiratory Protection Program

### **6.D.2 - POLICY -**

1. All equipment will be issued and requisitioned through Supply.
2. Approved RPE designed to protect personnel from occupational diseases caused by respirable airborne contaminants will be available, used, and maintained as required.
3. Respiratory protection will only be used as a means of controlling employee exposure to airborne environment hazards under the following circumstances.
  - When engineering or work practice controls cannot be used to adequately control the hazard.
  - During intermittent or non-routine operations.
  - During interim periods while engineering controls are being designed and installed to eliminate the hazard.
  - During emergencies.
4. Respiratory protection will be provided by the supply system with no cost to the employee.
5. Respirators will be selected and used based upon the extent and nature of the hazards to which the worker is exposed, the work requirements and conditions, and the characteristics and limitations of the respirator. All RPE used will carry the NIOSH/MSHA approval for the use for which it is intended. RPE equipment will be used only for the intended purposes and modifications of the equipment will not be made.
6. Employees whose work requires the wearing of RPE will not have beards, sideburns or other hair that will negate the effectiveness of the respiratory equipment by preventing an effective face-piece-to-face seal.
7. All supervisors will enforce the requirements of this SOP and recommend disciplinary action against offenders according to applicable regulations.
8. No entry, without clearance from Facility Safety Officer, will be made into a confined space (i.e. fuel tank, storage tank, etc.) where there is a potential for an oxygen-deficient atmosphere or where potentially hazardous contaminants could be present in lethal concentrations.
9. Supervisors and the workers will be properly instructed by the installation respirator specialist in the selection, use, and limitation of the respective respiratory protection devices.

### **6.D.3 - REFERENCES -**

- 29 CFR 1910.134
- TB MED 502, Respiratory Protection Program

## 6.D.4 - DEFINITIONS -

**Approved** - Respiratory protection tested and listed as satisfactory by NIOSH or MSHA to provide adequate respiratory protection against a particular hazard for which it is designed.

**Disinfection** - The destruction of pathogenic organisms, especially by means of a chemical substance.

**Immediately Dangerous to Life or Health** - Environmental conditions which contains less than 19.5% oxygen or conditions of high toxicity which pose an immediate threat to the life or health of employees, even for short periods of exposure.

**Facility Respirator Specialist** - The individual appointed by the Commander and trained by the State Safety Office to act as controller and maintenance specialist for all RPE.

**Oxygen-Deficient Atmosphere** - An atmosphere containing 19.5% or less of oxygen by volume.

**Respirator** - A device designed to provide the user with respiratory protection against inhalation of a contaminated atmosphere and for some devices, oxygen deficient atmospheres.

**Respirator center** - The central repository and control point for all RPE. All equipment will be issued and serviced at this point.

## 6.D.5 - RESPONSIBILITIES -

### 6.5.1 - FACILITY COMMANDER -

Ensure that respiratory protection is available and used by all personnel entering into or working in an atmosphere considered hazardous to employee health.

### 6.5.2 - FACILITY SAFETY OFFICER -

1. Ensure overall success of the Respiratory Protection Program and monitor the overall effectiveness and compliance with requirements of this SOP regarding RPE.
2. Ensure that prompt corrective action is taken on deficiencies which are detected in the Respiratory Protection Program.
3. Notify, in the course of safety surveys, the Facility Commander when and where personnel without respiratory protection are working in an atmosphere suspected of being hazardous to health.
4. Report for disciplinary action employees or their supervisors for failure to comply with requirements to wear respiratory protection.
5. Designate, in close coordination with the State Safety Office, the type of RPE to be ordered and used.

### 6.5.3 - SUPPLY -

1. Ensure that only the RPE specified by the Facility Respiratory Specialist is ordered (ensure no substitution of items).
2. Coordinate and consult with the Facility Respirator Specialist and Facility Safety officer for advice on procurement of essential items.
3. Ensure prompt, adequate support is provided in the ordering and receipt of all necessary equipment, essential to the success of the Respiratory Protection Program, and efforts to guarantee protection for employees life and health under the OSHA Act of 1970.

**6.5.4 - FACILITY RESPIRATOR SPECIALIST -**

1. Perform necessary maintenance and repairs within the guidelines established by the State Safety Office.
2. Determine non-usability of equipment, within the parameters established by the State Safety Office, and effect replacement.
3. Perform fit testing upon issue, and periodically thereafter according to guidance prescribed by the State Safety Office.
4. Perform centralized requisitioning, stockpiling, issuance, cleaning, sanitizing, and maintenance of RPE.
5. Train employees in the proper use, limitations, and donning of the respirators as well as leak tests and daily inspections to be performed by employees.
6. Inform employees upon initial issuance of RPE about their responsibilities regarding respiratory use.
7. Maintain recordkeeping of respiratory protection issued, results of fit-testing, and other information as prescribed by the Facility Safety Officer, for the Respiratory Protection Program.
8. Maintain necessary inventory levels of respirators, accessories, and spare parts.
9. Serve as sole requesting authority to initiate order requests for RPE.
10. Coordinate closely with the Facility Safety Officer on any problem areas of the Respiratory Protection Program as well as for any changes in program procedures or equipment.
11. Coordinate with supervisors to ensure distribution, issuance, etc. of respirators.
12. Order only RPE approved by the State Safety Office.

**6.5.5 - SUPERVISORS -**

1. Ensure that proper RPE is used by employees when and where required.
2. Ensure that employees adhere to instructions relative to proper use and maintenance requirements of the RPE.
3. Enforce the provisions of this SOP.
4. Ensure that new, transferred or temporary employees (where the job will require respiratory protection) receive proper respiratory protection, training and medical examinations.

**6.5.6 - EMPLOYEES -**

1. Be ultimately responsible for his and/or her own respirator.
2. Ensure that their respirator has no holes, cracks or leaks before each use.
3. Perform leak tests before each use.
4. Notify immediate supervisor if respiratory protection is needed, or that the respirator is defective.
5. Adhere to instructions governing the proper use of the RPE.
6. Store the respiratory in a clean, sanitary location when not in use.